

Put your numismatic know-how to the history test

By Roger Boye

IN THE FOLLOWING coin quiz, give yourself 10 points for each question you answer correctly. A score of 70 or better earns you the title of numismatist, a student of coins and currency.

1. In which American colony were coins first minted?

2. Which colony was the first to issue paper money?

3. Who was the nation's first treasurer? [Hints: He served from July 29, 1775, until 1789 when the office of secretary of the treasury was established, and Alexander Hamilton became the first treasury secretary. During this person's term the United States Mint was established, and he oversaw it as paymaster.]

4. In what year were the first regular issue coins made at the U.S. Mint, and what two kinds of coins were made that year?

5. Of all the individuals whose images have appeared on regular issue U.S. coins, who is the one person who was never President?

6. Because of a lack of bullion during the Civil War, the Confederate government minted coins in what two denominations only?

7. Name the shortest-lived regular-issue denomination in U.S. coinage history.

8. What U.S. President wanted the country to have coins equal in artistic excellence to those of the ancient Greeks? His work led to the introduction of the Lincoln cent in 1909 [the centennial of Lincoln's birth], among other coins.

9. What action did the Treasury Department take six years ago this month concerning paper currency?

10. In what way does the Eisenhower dollar depict the "space age"?

Answers:

1. Massachusetts [in 1652].

2. Massachusetts [in 1690].

3. Michael Hillegas.

4. 1793; half-cent and one-cent pieces.

5. Benjamin Franklin [on the half-dollar minted from 1948 to 1963].

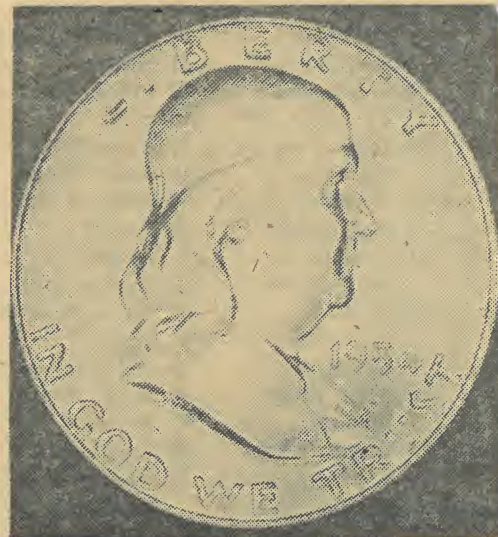
6. The one-cent piece [12 coins minted] and the half-dollar [four coins minted].

7. The 20-cent piece, minted from 1875 to 1878. [The \$4 gold piece was minted in 1879 and 1880 only, but the coin was a pattern and not meant as a regular issue.]

8. Theodore Roosevelt.

9. It stopped printing all bills higher than the \$100 denomination.

10. The reverse depicts an adaptation of the official Apollo 11 insignia showing an eagle landing on the moon.



Obverse of 1954 Franklin half dollar.